

is fed into her through a line that has been inserted in her chest.

While her classmates ate dinner at the prom, she drank water.

While her classmates danced, she did, too, but a few minutes at a time.

"I'd have to take breaks every five minutes," she said. "I'd dance and then I'd sit down and have a glass of water."

Sarah is a competitor, with full speed the only marking on her dial. If you call her fiery, make it a conflagration, not just a spark. When she has a goal, don't get in her way because you can't stop a Sarah at full throttle. As expected, the prom couldn't wear down her exuberance, and Sarah had a great time, which lasted until 3 a.m. That's when she arrived home and hooked herself up to her nourishment, which she couldn't disconnect for 12 hours.

"Maybe it's the spunk, the tough side of her in sports, that has helped her in her coping," her mother, Dolly, said.

WAITING FOR THE BEEP

The family is governed by a beeper—when it goes off, they know they have to head to the airport. After a small-bowel donor is found, Sarah and her family will have six hours to get her into transplant surgery at a hospital at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. An air ambulance is available, 24 hours a day.

"Despite it being a nightmare, she manages to cope with it better than anyone else," her mother said. "It's her feisty spirit," she said and laughed. "Which sometimes drives me crazy."

Sarah immediately recalled her mother getting angry in Sara's pre-illness days when a soccer referee would card her, meaning the ref was warning her or throwing her out of a game for a 90-mph infraction.

Sarah also recalled a technical foul she received in a basketball game after she absolutely, no question about it, cleanly and superbly blocked a shot that a conference star was trying to make. The ref, obviously biased in favor of the star, called a hacking foul on Sarah, and Sarah slightly questioned his brain power, or maybe it was his ability to find his whistle without help.

"He gave me the technical right away," Sarah said, "because I'd been talking to him earlier" about calls so highly questionable that even the ref's mother would have objected.

So this last year has not been easy for Sarah, as she missed school and sat on the bench while her teammates handle the referees. Her illness has stopped her from doing anything but cheer.

"It's been frustrating," Sarah said.

Asked about the transplant, she said, "I can't wait."

"We're anxiously awaiting Omaha," her mother said.

They have been told that a transplant may not be found for 6 to 9 months. Meanwhile, Sarah keeps doing what she can, as long as she doesn't stray far from beeper and nourishment.

"I'm connected 12 hours a night . . . and sometimes, if I'm thirsty, I'll go on it during the day," she said. "I carry around a backpack and I keep it in there," she said, indicating the equipment she needs to connect to the line into her chest.

Prior to the prom, when friends told Sarah that she had been elected to the prom court, "I started laughing," she said. "I thought they were joking."

The announcement of queen is not made until prom night, so she and her date, Kevin Tante, 16, a student at Marquette University High School, were startled. There were tears and cheers and one bop: Sarah's best friend, Mary Friar, shouted, "Yes, yes, yes,"

pumped her fist in the air and accidentally bopped the person standing next to her.

When someone becomes as ill as Sarah has been, it tilts the world within touch: Her illness has become a battle for everyone close to her, including friends, teachers, four sisters and a brother, and, of course, her parents, Dolly and Jerry. Sarah has been unlucky in what happened, but lucky that a crowd showed up to help her.

"Literally hundreds of people visited her in the hospital," Mrs. Hegarty said.

Sarah has spent a total of six months in hospitals, and she's looking forward to her next stay. She wants the transplant now. This minute. Blow the whistle, ref, and let's get going.

This teenager and prom queen and hard-driving athlete who hasn't eaten in more than a year has already made a list. She has marked the name of every restaurant she's going to charge into when she gets home from Omaha.

IN HONOR OF OLDER AMERICAN'S MONTH

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the month of May has been designated Older American's Month. The 335 senior centers in New York City will join with over 10,000 senior centers nationally and the Council on Senior Centers and Services in coordinating the Older American's Month celebration in New York City.

Senior centers and programs are vital in meeting the educational and social needs of our Nation's seniors. Centers provide a sense of community and fellowship necessary for seniors often living alone. Senior programs add immeasurably to the quality of life as well as emotional and physical well-being. I also know the value of senior centers from personal experience—they were a great benefit to my grandparents.

By naming this month Older American's Month, we are acknowledging the vital work that goes on every day to create safe havens and nurturing environments for seniors. I know all my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in applauding their efforts and wishing all our seniors centers many more years of success.

COMMENDING MRS. CLEO CHANDLER

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, when Jan and Dean wrote their 1963 classic hit song "Little Old Lady From Pasadena," little did they know that nearly three decades later, Cleo Chandler would bring the familiar lyrics to life—racing not a "Super Stock Dodge" but a 1965 Chevy Chevelle in the International Hot Rod Association's stock eliminator class.

Cleo began her drag racing career in 1983, at age 68, when her son gave her the car as a Christmas gift. Apparently, after receiving

the car, Cleo was so determined to become a drag racer that she would practice starts in her driveway. However, rumor has it that because her driveway was so short, Cleo would have to immediately hit the car's brakes to bring it to a stop before speeding into oncoming traffic. Sure enough, when Cleo finally made it to her first race, she got to the starting line, hit the accelerator, took off—and, true to her conditioned response, immediately hit the brakes.

Since then though, the 81-year-old great-grandmother has managed to score an impressive racing record. In 1992, at age 76, she won her first national event and has appeared in four more IHRA national event finals. Cleo has set three IHRA world records in stock eliminator class and was chosen Stock Car Driver of the Year in 1993 by Car Craft magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Cleo for all of her accomplishments. She is truly an inspiration and proof to us all that you never get old if you are young at heart.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY THRESHER AND ALLEN WINCHESTER—TWO MISSOURI SCHOOL TEACHERS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to pay tribute to two very special teachers from the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri.

First, there's Mrs. Cindy Thresher. Mrs. Thresher is Missouri's 1997 Teacher of the Year recipient. She has taught for 29 years—the past 16 years at Lucy Wortham James Elementary School in Saint James School District.

Mrs. Thresher is known for her hands-on approach to teaching and learning, a style that sometimes requires students to create unique learning environments. For example she has transformed her classroom into a rain forest, a desert, and the surface of the moon. In these projects she involves other faculty members, visitors from the community, and most importantly, parents.

For the past 3 years, Mrs. Thresher has led several statewide school improvement initiatives. She's a member of the original group of teachers and educators who helped write the "Show-me Standards"—Missouri's statewide academic standards.

Today I also want to pay tribute to Mr. Allen Winchester, a government teacher at Gideon High School. Mr. Winchester has inspired and pushed students to play an active role in taking pride in and attracting new business to their community.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper even highlighted his achievements in Gideon. Mr. Winchester has always stressed to his students, "We have all the potential in the world. We just have to think big. If you think you can succeed you will. You just can't quit. If you can't climb over a brick wall, keep hitting it until it falls. Change the way people think." With this tenacity he is finding success by bringing the real world into the classroom.

Mr. Winchester refers to his teaching style as "authentic learning," which he says trains

students in the basics and then lets them apply what they've learned. His students took that to heart, and in the last year, through their efforts, the town of Gideon helped renovate the community from the inside out by cleaning up public property and tearing down old buildings. To put a new face on this community spirit, Mr. Winchester's students erected a new welcome sign, planted flowers, and even created an Internet Web page showing off the town and school district to new businesses and other visitors.

Mr. Speaker, with teachers like Cindy Thresher and Allen Winchester guiding and teaching our students, our future looks much brighter. I commend them and all of our Nation's educators who prepare our children today to be the leaders of tomorrow.

REMARKS OF LEE TENG-HUI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege of traveling with the Speaker of the House on a congressional delegation trip to Asia. We had the opportunity to meet with some of the most dynamic leaders of the Pacific rim. I wanted to share with the rest of our colleagues the important remarks of Lee Teng-hui, President of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI'S ADDRESS TO THE SPEAKER'S DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN ON APRIL 2, 1997

Honorable Speaker Gingrich, Honorable Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen: Good morning. This is a very important moment. On behalf of the people and the government of the ROC on Taiwan, I would like to extend my heartiest welcome to all of you. Particularly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for your decision to visit my country out of such a busy schedule on your Asia evaluation tour. The time of your stay is very short, but the most important thing is that you didn't forget this island ROC on Taiwan. It has at least two very significant meanings: First, the ROC on Taiwan is the best friend of the United States in the world and the symbol of American value system and idealism, Freedom and Democracy. Second, the island is geographically important for US military strategy in the West Pacific area, and particularly in North-East Asia.

Domestically, the ROC on Taiwan is now considered a fully free country by the Freedom House based in New York City following our first direct popular presidential election in March 1996. In order to improve our competitiveness, we are now in the process of streamlining the government structure through constitutional reform and establishing an Asian Pacific Regional Operations Center here.

Our mainland China policy remains unchanged. Eventual reunification of China under freedom, democracy, and social justice is still our future goal, but the fact remains: China is divided. We in the ROC in Taiwan would like to use the next thirty years to build an even more free, democratic and prosperous country, so that when the opportune time arises, we can hold talks of reunification with the other side on an equal footing.

In the interest of time, I would like to listen to you; any questions put forward to me

are welcome. As to the purposes of this trip, you already mentioned in the news conference on the 23rd of March. We have already prepared answers to those questions, and will provide the materials to you for your convenience. Thank you very much for your attention. Now, I would like to listen to your comments and advice.

AVOID POLITICAL TINKERING WITH THE CPI

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern for all senior citizens. As you may know, I represent one of the oldest congressional districts in the country. In fact, well over 20 percent of the people living in my district are aged 65 or older. Many of my constituents consequently depend on Social Security. Because many of those receiving Social Security live near the poverty level and because Social Security often represents their only source of income in retirement, they especially depend on their annual cost-of-living adjustments COLA's to maintain their standards of living.

As my colleagues should be aware, the Federal Government currently calculates the annual COLA for Social Security recipients using the consumer price index for wage earners [CPI-W]. Because the market basket used to determine the [CPI-W] does not precisely reflect those goods and services purchased by senior citizens, some fear that the elderly may actually experience a higher rate of inflation. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS] at the request of Congress has for a number of years calculated an experimental price index for the elderly. As a result, the BLS found in 1994 that the CPI-W may actually understate the annual inflation rate for the elderly by four-tenths of a percentage point on average.

This difference comes as a consequence of two well-known factors. First, older Americans spend more of their income on out-of-pocket costs for medical care, despite coverage by Medicare. Second, medical care prices have risen faster than the average of all other prices. If the price of medical care increases faster than average, then, other things being equal, the actual inflation experienced by senior citizens will be more rapid than is described by the CPI-W.

Despite evidence that the CPI-W may understate the rate of inflation for the elderly, many people still have the perception that the measure overstates inflation. In a time of budgetary pressures, many policymakers have consequently come to view adjusting the CPI as the panacea for balancing the budget because curbing COLA's would reduce budget deficits and ease long-term entitlement funding. COLA's are such an important issue because about one-third of Federal budget outlays are automatically adjusted each year given changes in the CPI-W.

I have closely followed all of the debate about whether the BLS overestimates inflation when it calculates the consumer price index. Therefore, when the budget negotiators announced their deal late last week. I was relieved to learn that they did not agree to any

risky political tinkering with the CPI. A political determination in this matter would have compounded the efforts of Government economists to determine the accuracy of the measure. Moreover, it would have led to greater public confusion about the issue and distrust in the accuracy of Government statistics generally. Still further, any political effort to manipulate this statistic downward would have likely had a significant negative impact on those elderly individuals living close to the poverty line.

Instead of a politically motivated vote on the accuracy of the CPI, what is needed is a factual, technical determination based on sound economic analysis. Despite the well-publicized findings of the Boskin Commission, several economists have recently issued reports that the CPI may understate inflation. The BLS has the expertise, tools, resources, and experience to weigh the conflicting evidence and develop an accurate and appropriate inflation measure. Moreover, allowing the BLS to make this determination will help to maintain the integrity, objectivity, and the reliability of the Federal statistical system.

Ultimately, I believed that people should receive an accurate inflation adjustment, not one that gives them an unintended bonus or reduction. I, therefore, encourage the Bureau of Labor Statistics to continue its efforts to identify the most appropriate and accurate criteria for measuring inflation. I would also be interested in learning of the agency's recommendations on whether Congress should use the CPI for the elderly to adjust Social Security benefits and other programs for the elderly. Further, I encourage my colleagues in Congress to continue to protect our senior citizens and others on fixed incomes in any future effort to balance the budget.

My Speaker, thank you for allowing me to raise this important issue. The Bureau of Labor Statistics alone should make adjustments, if any are needed, to the methodology used to determine the Consumer Price Index. In the upcoming weeks and months, I, for one, will continue to vigilantly watch the actions of the Bureau of Labor Statistics on this issue. I am also certain that senior citizens will also continue to closely examine the actions of my colleagues on this matter.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL SCHULTE

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, It is a great honor for me to pay tribute today to one of Milwaukee County's truly outstanding citizens. As the Men's Club of Shorewood, WI, gathers this week to honor Michael Schulte as its 1997 Man of the Year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements of this exceptional individual.

From 1985 until last month, Mike Schulte served as a village trustee of Shorewood, serving as village president for more than 6 years. Under Mike's strong leadership, Shorewood grew and thrived as one of Wisconsin's most efficient and productive communities.

During his tenure, enhanced 911 emergency service and the North Shore Public Safety